

*Congressman Joins Community Leaders to Tout Project that Increases Safety, Reduces Traffic Congestion, Creates Jobs*

(College Station) – U.S. Representative Chet Edwards joined Brazos County local leaders for a ribbon cutting ceremony celebrating the completion of construction on Barron Road and the SH 6 Overpass. The event marks the opening of Barron Road under the bridge which will help relieve the congested intersection at Fitch and SH 6.

Edwards was joined by College Station Mayor Nancy Berry, Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce chair Jan Lee, TxDOT officials, and community leaders for the ceremony. In March of 2009, Edwards announced that federal stimulus funding had been awarded to complete the needed improvements following \$2.4 million in earmarked funds Edwards secured previously for the project at the request of local leaders.

**Congressman Edwards said, “This was a great partnership, and I salute the city of College Station, the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce, the Bryan-College Station Metropolitan Planning Organization and TxDOT for working together to make this highway improvement happen. What makes this so important is that easing traffic congestion makes our roads safer and means families can spend less time stuck in traffic and more time at home with their children and loved ones. That’s why I am grateful to have been part of this great community effort.”**

At the ribbon cutting ceremony, contractor Glenn Fuqua said that the Barron Road-SH6

construction project saved 34 local jobs.

**Background:** Approximately 6 years ago when Congressman Edwards was elected to represent Brazos County, the Bryan-College Station Chamber and City of College Station approached him and asked if his office could help with the Barron Road Exchange Project.

As one of Brazos County's highest transportation priorities, local leaders were worried about serious traffic congestion and safety, given backed up traffic on Earl Rudder Freeway during rush hour. In response to the community request, Chet secured \$2.4 million in earmarked funding, which allowed the project to be shovel-ready last year qualifying it to receive federal stimulus funds to complete the project.